

Serial No. 10/720,394
Amdt. Dated December 9, 2004
Reply to Office Action of August 12, 2004

Docket No. K-0568

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A dryer comprising:

a housing;

a drum rotatably installed in the housing;

a heating apparatus for supplying hot air to the drum;

a door opening/closing an entrance formed at the housing for putting a laundry in the drum; and

an apparatus for opening/closing the door, comprising[[;]]:

 a hook provided at one side of the door of the dryer, the hook having a hanging portion formed at one end to have an incline surface;

 a latch body provided to the housing in the vicinity of the entrance wherein the hanging portion is inserted into the latch body;

 a pair of holders provided to confront each other in the latch body to hold the hanging portion; and

 a pair of springs provided [[in]] at a rear of the holders, respectively.

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2. (Currently Amended) The dryer as claimed in claim 1, the latch body comprising:
 - a first reception part receiving the hanging portion; and
 - a pair of second reception parts provided adjacent to both sides of the first reception part to hold ~~to and~~ guide the holders, respectively.
3. (Original) The dryer as claimed in claim 2, wherein a pair of passing holes communicating with the second reception parts are formed at both of the sides of the first reception part to let the holders pass through, respectively.
4. (Original) The dryer as claimed in claim 2, wherein a recess is formed at one end of each of the second reception parts to support the corresponding spring.
5. (Original) The dryer as claimed in claim 2, wherein a hanging protrusion is formed on one side of each of the holders to be held by an upper end of the first reception part.
6. (Original) The dryer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hanging portion has a triangular cross-section.

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7. (Original) The dryer as claimed in claim 6, wherein confronting planes of the holders are inclined to correspond to the triangular cross-section of the hanging portion.
8. (Currently Amended) The dryer as claimed in claim 1, wherein a surface of the hanging portion to be brought into contact with the holders is rounded.
9. (Original) The dryer as claimed in claim 8, wherein two confronting tips of the holders are rounded.
10. (Original) The dryer as claimed in claim 1, wherein a hollow portion is provided at a rear side of each of the holders to have one end of the corresponding spring inserted therein.
11. (Original) The dryer as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a latch cap covering the first and second reception parts to prevent separation of the holders and the springs.
12. (Original) The dryer as claimed in claim 11, wherein fixing protrusions protrude from a bottom of the latch cap to hold one ends of the springs, respectively.

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13. (Currently Amended) The dryer as claimed in claim 11, wherein guide protrusions protrude from a bottom of the latch cap to guide ~~to move the~~ moving holders, respectively.

14. (Original) The dryer as claimed in claim 11, wherein coupling holes are formed at corners of the latch cap and wherein bolts are screwed in the coupling holes, respectively to fix the latch cap to the latch body.

15. (Original) The dryer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hook is built in one body of a fixing plate screw-coupled to one side of the door.

16. (Original) The dryer as claimed in claim 1, wherein coupling holes are formed at both sides of the latch body and wherein bolts are screwed in the coupling holes, respectively to fix the latch body to the front panel.

17. (Original) The dryer as claimed in claim 1, wherein an insertion hole is formed in the latch body so that the hanging portion is inserted in the insertion hole.

18. (Original) The dryer as claimed in claim 17, wherein the insertion hole comprises an incline surface inclining inward to guide the hanging portion.

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19. (Original) The dryer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the incline surface guides insertion and separation of the hanging portion.

20. (Original) The dryer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the incline surface is provided to open a gap between the holders.

21. (Original) The dryer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the incline surface is provided to push the holders backward.

22. (Original) The dryer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the incline surface comprises a first incline surface opening a space between the holders to guide an insertion of the hanging portion therein.

23. (Currently Amended) The dryer as claimed in claim 22, wherein the incline surface comprises a first incline surface that is formed at a front side of the hanging portion.

24. (Currently Amended) The dryer as claimed in claim [[1]] 23, wherein the incline surface comprises a second incline surface opening a space between the holders to guide a retreat of the hanging portion.

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25. (Original) The dryer as claimed in claim 24, wherein the second incline surface is formed at a rear side of the hanging portion.

26. (Original) The dryer as claimed in claim 24, wherein the incline surface further comprises an intermediate portion between the first and second incline surfaces to maintain a hanging state of the hanging portion.

27. (Original) The dryer as claimed in claim 24, wherein an incline angle of the first incline surface is smaller than that of the second incline surface.

28. (Original) The dryer as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one rib is provided to the hook to reinforce strength thereof.

29. (New) A dryer comprising:

a housing;

a drum rotatably installed in the housing;

a door opening/closing an entrance formed in the housing for putting laundry in the drum; and

an apparatus for latching the door, comprising;

a hook provided at one side of the door of the dryer, the hook having a hanging portion formed at one end;

a latch body provided on the housing in the vicinity of the entrance wherein the hanging portion is inserted into the latch body;

a pair of slidable holders provided to confront each other in the latch body and being guided to hold the hanging portion; and

a pair of springs provided at least partially inside the holders, respectively.

30. (New) The dryer as claimed in claim 29, the latch body comprising:

a first reception part receiving the hanging portion; and

a pair of second reception parts provided at sides of the first reception part to hold and guide the holders, respectively.

31. (New) The dryer as claimed in claim 30, wherein a hanging protrusion is formed on one side of each of the holders, and wherein the hanging protrusion is configured to be blocked by a corresponding protrusion on the first reception part to thereby limit movement of the holders.

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32. (New) The dryer as claimed in claim 29, further comprising a latch cap covering the first and second reception parts to prevent separation of the holders and the springs.

33. (New) The dryer as claimed in claim 32, wherein fixing protrusions protrude from a bottom of the latch cap to hold ends of the springs, respectively.

34. (New) The dryer as claimed in claim 32, wherein guide protrusions protrude from a bottom of the latch cap to guide movement of the holders, respectively.

35. (New) The dryer as claimed in claim 32, wherein coupling holes are formed at corners of the latch cap and wherein bolts are screwed in the coupling holes, respectively to fix the latch cap to the latch body.